Note on my own WG Ntones HW 3/3/74

Having reached the period of the initial and covering-up indictment, the end of 9/72, in rereading these notes one of the most apparent disclosures is the close to total refusal of the press to do its job, to dig the story out, to do any real investigation, and in what I shall address, to accept the work done free and delivered. I have in mind in particular one of a series of letters in which I spelled out what I had already developed and had spent time on only because the press finkedout, this one of 9/30/72 to Carl Bernstein, WxPost, following a discouraging conversation with him of the day before.

I knew Carl when he was a baby but from about the time he first started to ride a bike until he started these stories did not see him. Lil and I knew his father when the three of us worked for the Senate together in the late 30s. Al Bernstein had been Max Lowenthal's research assistant on his definitive work on the FBI and paid heavily for it, becoming a "security risk". Al went into business, first running laundramat. When I farmed he was a customer. Carl was raised on my eggs and chickens, so to speak.

All the things in this letter of 9/30/72, which was still the early days on WG and was prior to the election, had already been proved out. I had to protect my source but I had worked out a formula for the Post duplicating my work without touching my source. All the things I spell out were true and were then known to be true. Subsequent added work turned up more and the sensational, filed under Ford and his impeachment efforts. The CIA inferences are considerable understatements.

One of the things the refusal of the Post and particularly of Bernstein and Woodward, to do any original work, any investigating, really means, is that they had those with vested interests leaking to them and they made a decision to stick to what was leaked and to stay away from their own work. What they did not realize, regardless of how many sources they had and how dependable these sources were, is that they became the creatures of their sources, learning only what they were spoon fed.

I think it is no exaggeration to record that had Carl or Bob followed the leads I gave them this whole squalid business would have ended with the election, that criminal charges not even indicated after the second round of Washington WG indictments of two days ago would have had to have been filed and pressed and that the entire coverup represented by the first indictment would have been impossible. What is even more distressing is that they missed what I fed them, missed getting onto all these things on their own. ad they done the normal amount of work with the normal sources, like Who's Who, Contemporary Authors and city directories they would have uncovered an entire CIA domestic operation less than five blocks from their office, where both the Washington "station" and some of the Washington "bases" were located, that Hunt had been stationed there and engaged in proscribed activity and all the other things inferred in this letter. (Newsweek is among the major media elements in the building that housed the "station", with a military cover, was onto it and able to do nothing because the reporter depended on a "source," a friend working in the station who would not talk. I learned this when I wrote Elfin that he was sitting on top of part of the story.)

So, while the Post, Carl and Bon won and earned the Pulitzer, if only because eceryone else refused to do anything, they did so little less than they could and should that they are really responsible, as I see it, for all that has happened to the country since. And all that will.

All this letter says about Hunt's activity <u>while</u> he was with CIA is enormously understated, as my own very short investigation, limited to minutes, later showed. He and others who figure in the WG story, particularly Caddy and others not yet exposed of the right extreme, were engaging in the seamiest kind of domestic activity, political and dirty, while he was paid by CIA and while Mullen was getting federal funds.